

# SOCIETY

To-day is the first of a week which ends with February 14th, and where is the maiden or the gallant, even in the twentieth century, who is not thrilled with sentimental thoughts and tender feelings at the idea of sending and receiving a possible valentine?

People of the present day affect a great deal of materialism; at heart, they are very much what humanity has always been. In a different way, they express just the same thing as that told in highly ornamental note paper of a half century ago, when the jingle, with many pen flourishes, ran thus:

"Roses are red, and violets are blue, Sugar is sweet, and so are you."

New, the roses and violets are conserved leaves of the one and blossoms of the other, and they are sent in a crimson satin heart-shaped box with a chubby, rosy, hand-painted cupid on outside, but they mean just the same thing in the one instance as the other, the difference of time makes the difference of expression; that is all.

A pretty story told of a French woman of rank and great beauty is that she once was sitting in her palace on Valentine's Eve, with all the splendid girls that had been sent her from many sources as reminders of the festival around her. She was a little listless and wearied of them all, and was walking impatiently to and fro when a servant entered, bringing her a little basket of blue and white wood violets, like those that grew in the forests near her childhood's home, and had made the first valentine offering she had ever received years before. Then she had been a simple untutored girl, and the world and its worldly splendors had no place in her mind.

She stretched out her hand for the basket and bent over it with a cry of joy, inhaling the perfume of its fragrant burden and listening with quivering lips to the message the violets gave. That night when she moved a radiant and queenly figure amid the gay throngs at a great court celebration, a Marchioness of France noticed the blue and white violets she carried in her hand, and with his thoughts reverting to the First Empire and the Napoleonic colors, he said inquiringly, as he bent before her, and touched her flowers:

"For the sake of the past, madame?" She raised her eyes that might have borrowed their hue from the blossoms and that had in their depths the ineffable sweetness of an ever-present memory and answered slowly:

"For the sake of the past, sire." So it has always been, so it will ever be. The shrine of good Saint Valentine will be heaped as high in 1940 as ever before. Missy will perhaps flush rosy red with pleasure over something that is very symbolical of the season, over which her lover has spent much care in selection, and which is supposed to be a new way of telling a story that is as old as humanity itself, and yet the only one of which humanity has never wearied in the telling.

## Germans of The Week.

The Richmond Assembly had its last german but one before Lent on Monday evening of the past week. A number of visiting ladies were present, among them Mrs. Richard Evelyn Byrd, of Winchester, in white silk net, inserted with pink and blue velvet, with ruffles trimmed in lace and velvet, roses, appliques and worn over accordion-plated pink chiffon. Miss Molly Payne, of Harrisonburg, Va., in white tulle point d'esprit, a pink rose in her hair, and a corsage bouquet of white lilies.

Miss Beatrice Doyle, of Norfolk, in white panne crepe de chine, trimmed in applique and embroidery, a transparent yoke and long white gloves. Miss Crutchfield, of Fredericksburg, Va., in flame colored crepe, appliqued in lace medallions. Miss Matilda, of Fredericksburg, in white organza trimmed with valencienne, lace berthe. Miss Nina Armistead, of Baltimore, in white etamine with white chiffon, pink roses.

Miss Katherine Patton, of Danville, in black net above black satin, buck embroidered chiffon, berthe. Miss Lillie Lane, of Alabama, in pink silk-striped grenadine, point lace, berthe. Miss Lowers, of Maryland, in white mousseline over blue silk, blue ribbons.

Miss Powell, of Baltimore, in black silk net, with trimming of black velvet ribbon. The Richmond german will have its fortnightly collation in the Masonic Temple tomorrow evening. As the season is drawing near its close and the german series before Lent is almost over, it is believed that this dance will be one of the most attractive of the winter.

## Among The Clubs.

Mr. Franklin Cowles Woodward, formerly a prominent educator of South Carolina, who, with his wife, Miss Leary, is spending the winter with Major and Mrs. James D. Patton, will address the members of the Woman's Club tomorrow, February 9th, on "The Uses of Fiction."

The Kate Wheelock Whist Club met with Mrs. Correll Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Robert Nelson and Mrs. A. E. Shepherd scored north and south. Mrs. C. E. Wingo and Mrs. Irving Watkins east and west. Mrs. Warner Moore will entertain the club next week.

Mrs. Allen Lyon was the hostess of the Young Married Ladies' Club Friday afternoon. Mrs. Harry A. Gillis and Miss Mabel Scott, of Warrenton, Va., were Mrs. Lyon's special guests.

The Richmond Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy, will meet at Lee Camp Hall Wednesday next at 4 P. M. for the election of officers. This election will be by ballot according to the constitution. The annual report of officers for the past year will be read.

At a meeting of the Hebrew Memorial Association in No. 40 East Franklin Street, at 4 o'clock last Wednesday afternoon, it was decided to have a tea February 15th from 5 to 10 o'clock P. M. for the benefit of the Confederate Bazaar Association. Lee Camp Hall, where the tea will be held will be decorated in Confederate colors. The Hebrew Memorial will meet again this week to perfect arrangements.

## Debutante Tea.

A very pretty debutante tea and reception was given Tuesday afternoon from 5 to 7 o'clock by Mrs. John Dooley, of No. 214 East Main Street, in honor of her granddaughter, Miss Eliza-

nora Clara Houston, a charming bud of this season.

After the reception the young ladies who assisted with Miss Eleanor Clure Houston engaged in a card game. Euchre was played and the game was marked in flowers, red and white roses, poppies and chrysanthemums being placed in the hall, parlor and dining room decorations were in pink and green. Palms were grouped in the hall; mantels were banked with ferns as a background for pink carnations; vases holding pink carnations were placed throughout the rooms, and silver candelabra with pink tapers and shades carried out the color scheme. The centerpiece for the table was a large and lovely plaque of pink roses, velled in maidenhair ferns. Miss Houston's pink crepe de chine gown harmonized most artistically with the pink of blossoms and the soft glow from shaded lamps and tapers.

The Central Committee of the A. P. T. A. met at the Virginia Historical So-

ciety. Prizes offered were a large and beautiful heart-shaped box, filled with confections; the second a red and white blotting pad, tied with ribbon and ornamented with a Gibson head in profile; the third, a small heart, hand-painted.

Funny souvenirs of the occasion were large red hearts fringed with little hearts used as markers. A feature of the afternoon was the formation of parties of six or seven among the young people who played continuously with each other.

A Confederate reception will be given under the auspices of the Oakwood Association February 24th in the home of Mrs. C. W. Massie, of No. 272 East Broad Street. The reception will be held for the benefit of the Georgia table, and the following ladies have promised active assistance: Mesdames M. T. Snellings, Hughes, Massie, Benzley, Carter, Pleasant, Grasswell, New, Riddick, Harwood, Green, Swalmeyor, Parker, Bowdler, Clarke, Talley and Moore; Misses



MISS LILLIAN KELLAM, of Northampton County, Who is the guest of Miss Nellie Gray, at No. 210 East Franklin Street.

dety Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Mrs. Bryan presided. Mrs. Bryan appointed a committee, including Mrs. Lightfoot, Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Emma Roscoe Hall, to attend the Virginia Conference of Charities and Corrections, which convenes in Richmond February 10th.

Mrs. Bagby reported that recent excavations at Jamestown have laid bare the foundation of two houses, one large and one small. This new discovery is most interesting in the light of future probabilities.

## Mrs. Boshers' Tea.

A charming social event of Tuesday afternoon and evening was the reception tea given by Mrs. Robert S. Boshers.

Callers were welcomed by Mrs. Boshers, who received with Miss Ellie Boshers, Mrs. L. B. Jamney, Mrs. Charles Fisher, Mrs. Caslake Cabell, Mrs. Christopher Tompkins, Mrs. Thomas Armistead and Mrs. Charles Wortham.

Very handsome floral decorations were in palms, ferns, American beauties and Testout roses.

## Bazaar Tables.

The committee for the Solid South table at the Confederate Bazaar met Tuesday at 11 A. M. Mrs. Robert White, of West Virginia, was present and gave a very encouraging account of the bazaar work in West Virginia. Letters were read from Mrs. Beattie, of New York, promising assistance, and one from Miss Nannie Heth, of Washington, offering to secure a miniature of General Robert E. Lee.

Mrs. W. F. Butler wrote, saying her chapter would be glad to contribute. Miss Van Wyck, of California, will be here during the bazaar with friends to look at the Solid South table. Miss Mammie Baughman and Miss Townes will appoint young ladies to take charge of the table each day during the bazaar.

Mrs. Landonia Dashiell, who is the chairman of the Louisiana table, has been a most delightful letter from the Louisiana State regent, promising to christen the table, give the drapery for the booth and send her representative with another lady to look after Louisiana's interests during the bazaar.

Mrs. Dashiell's committee includes Mrs. Maria Robinson, Mrs. E. C. Minor, Mrs. P. L. Conquest, Mrs. Henry Harwood, Mrs. H. A. Gillis, Miss Bemiss, Mrs. Clayton Coleman, Mrs. P. B. Robertson, Mrs. Charles Robins, Mrs. J. Parker Dashiell, Mrs. O. H. Funsten, Mrs. P. L. Conquest, Mrs. Henry Harwood, Mrs. H. A. Gillis, Miss Bemiss, Miss Ella Cooke, Miss Adair Minor, Miss Louie Whitlock, Miss Tabb, Miss Langley, Miss Scott, Miss Carrie Coleman, Miss Kathleen Anderson, Miss Cora Harrison, Mrs. George Ainslie and Mrs. Mann S. Valentine.

The eucha game played Saturday afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock for the benefit of the Missouri table at the Confederate Bazaar was one of the pleasantest social affairs of the week. The game was under the direction of Mrs. John H. Hagan and Mrs. Robert M. Blankenship and was splendidly man-

aged by Mrs. Blankenship. Prizes offered were a large and beautiful heart-shaped box, filled with confections; the second a red and white blotting pad, tied with ribbon and ornamented with a Gibson head in profile; the third, a small heart, hand-painted.

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Rockers.

\$2.95 for Fine Polished Saddle-Seat Rocker.

\$3.75 for Handsome Mahogany Finished Parlor Rocker.

Sideboards.

\$9.75 for good Oak Sideboard.

\$15.50 for Swelled Front Oak Sideboard.

Dressing Cases.

\$18.50 for Quartered Oak Polished Dressing Case.

Tables.

\$4.45 for Solid Oak Extension Table, 6 feet, with 5 heavy legs, equal to a table that costs you elsewhere \$6.

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# RICHMOND WASHINGTON

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## Carpets.

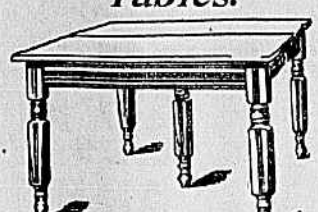
25c for good Ingrain Carpet.

65c for good Brussels Carpet.

\$14.95 3x4 Brussels Rug.

98c for Fringed Rug.

## Tables.



\$4.45 for Solid Oak Extension Table, 6 feet, with 5 heavy legs, equal to a table that costs you elsewhere \$6.

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## BUY THE BEST

Particularly when it costs you no more than cheaply made furniture. Our wide experience and large buying facilities enable us to give you an advantage in price not to be had elsewhere — and CREDIT you at that.



\$52.50 for Magnificent Quartered Oak, Polish-Finished Bedroom Suit, worth \$65.00.

## Go-Carts.

Go-Carts and Baby-Carriages in endless variety of styles; all the latest reclining features.

\$10.95 for the Best Go-Cart offered in the city for \$15.00; complete with handsome parasol.

## Hall Racks.

\$8.75 for Golden Oak Hall Rack; worth \$12.50.

\$12.50 for Large Oak Hall Rack; worth \$18.00.

\$21.50 for Massive Oak Hall Rack; worth \$30.00.

## Iron Beds.

\$10.75 for Very Elaborate, med White Enamel Bed, worth \$15.00.

\$4.95 for Handsome White Enamel Bed, brass rails and large brass vases, worth \$7.50.

\$2.95 for Heartiest and Best White Enamel Bed ever offered at \$4.50.



\$18.75 for Handsome Swelled Front Golden Oak Sideboard, worth \$25.

\$22.50 for very large Swelled Front Golden Oak Sideboard, worth \$30.

## Chiffonier.



\$4.95 for this Chiffonier, made of oak; 6 drawers; carved back; equal to a chiffonier that costs you elsewhere \$7.00.

## Parlor Suits.

\$7.50 for 3-piece Parlor Suit.

\$24.50 for 5-piece Tufted-Back Parlor Suit.

\$35.50 for Spring-Edge Silk Damask Parlor Suit.

## Bedroom Suits.



\$18.75 for Solid Oak Bedroom Suit; nicely carved dressing case, with beveled plate mirror. Equal to a suit that costs you elsewhere \$24.00.

# PETTIT & COMPANY, FORMERLY MAYER & PETTIT, Cor. Foushee and Broad Sts.

## MOLLY ELLIOTT SEAWELL TELLS OF HER SUCCESS

Must Work Hard and Have Something to Say.

## HER GLOUCESTER HOME

Her Work is Done in a Little Octagonal Shaped Room, Which She Calls Her Den—One of the Most Successful of Modern Writers.

Speaking of the qualifications in a writer which insure financial success, Miss Molly Elliott Seawell, the well-known novelist, says:

"If one works hard, secures a good publisher, and has something to say that the public wants to hear, financial success is obliged to follow. The shortest road to failure, however, is to put financial before artistic success."

Miss Seawell considers the present outlook for writers exceedingly bright. "The rewards of literature," she says, "have greatly increased in the last ten years. Larger royalties are received, and the earnings of the writers of to-day compare favorably with those of the best paid of other professions. The American book market is worth five times as much as the English market. The international copyright law has put the business of publishing books upon a sounder basis than it ever before occupied. I don't believe it operates so as to cut English authors off from our market, but I believe if it were not possible for them to secure the copyright in both countries they would prefer to secure it in the United States, and I don't know any American writer who would wish to exclude them. If we can't hold our own with our own public we don't deserve to succeed."

Few writers contribute so much in a social way to the pleasure of their acquaintances as does Miss Seawell. Her frequent dinners are charming occasions, while her Sunday afternoon at home, attended mostly by men, bring together cultured, cosmopolitan gatherings scarcely to be found outside of Washington. Every afternoon at 5 o'clock during the week, too, a table, freighted with delicate china and colonial silver is placed in the bay window of her front drawing-room, when visitors drop in, and with "the cup that cheers" to promote sociability, pass a delightful hour in conversation. "The gold bowl of each spoon is stamped with a representation of 'The Shelter,' her birth-place, in Gloucester county, Va., and scattered about the room are bits of antique china and furniture, with interesting portraiture handed down from the Seawells and Tylers and other of her ancestors. From this apartment one looks into the library, with its blazing wood fire and rows of books interspersed with inherited first editions of the eighteenth century. Beyond is the dining-room, furnished with old mahogany, which the owner tells you did not come from second-hand shops, but from her family, since all of our acquaintances had it, we didn't much value it, although we have learned to respect it more."

MISS SEAWELL'S DEN. Miss Seawell's "den," where she tells day after day, as she puts it, "like a gray-horse," is a gay little octagon-shaped apartment, in the extreme end of the



MISS MOLLY ELLIOTT SEAWELL.

building, with a lobby attached. Here a wood fire also burns; for (like Oliver Wendell Holmes, who prefers the kind of a fire three-fourths of the heat from which goes up the chimney) while two immense bright windows with deep cushioned window seats, add to its cheer. Above the mantel is a statuette of Napoleon, whom "she adores," other souvenirs of him being several portraits, busts and medals, with plates which he used at the Tuilleries. Books contribute largely to the furnishings of this room, and pictures of dear friends, notably of her sister, who shares her home, of Miss Modjeska, Julia Marlowe, Captain Sigbee and others, look down upon her from its walls. The house, purchased by her some years ago, overlooks the Spanish legation, and is within half a block of Dupont Circle and a block of the Lister residence and other semi-palatial homes. Desirable as it is from every standpoint,

however, it is as a representation of the material capabilities of the pen that it has most practical import.

Although she has never made a phenomenal "hit," Miss Seawell is one of the most successful of modern writers, realizing large returns from her work, a fact which someone explains by saying that she has both ability and availability. She seems, indeed, to be one of those rare instances of mental equipoise in which the artistic and practical side of the nature balance each other, and in examining into her methods, one cannot fail to see how thoroughly they are permeated with the heaven of common sense. Subscribing to Coquelin's theory that "if there is such a thing as inspiration, the way to draw the fire down from heaven is to work hard," she ignores modes, going to her desk every morning with clock-like regularity, and hedging the hours passed there from all interruption. To a fellow-

writer, who spoke of her limitations, she promptly replied: "There is no limitation to hard work." But while she is an explication of her own doctrine, she also works with moderation. Rest, exercise and recreation have their proper place, and in the summer, closing her home, she spends the months in foreign travel or at some invigorating resort. For a time, from a tedious trouble with the eyes, she employed a stenographer, and lest the experiment should not be successful, she armed her against possible discomfiture by saying: "You must tell your friends that you have taken a lady on a week's trial." Her interest in the struggling among her own sex is, indeed, one of her most salient characteristics, her sympathy shaping itself to fit the needs of each individual case. The young stenographer, "working with the regularity of an automaton and the tactfulness and intelligence of a human being," proved in every way satisfactory. But, although an expert, she found it difficult to keep pace with her dictation, and Miss Seawell describes herself as both a slow and rapid writer, making the first draft quickly, and then going over it again and again.

She spares neither trouble nor expense to gain the desired result, and while writing "The House of Egremont," for which she received \$7,000 as an advance payment, she finished a few of its chapters to acquaint herself with the period and people and made a special trip to St. Germain's, in France, to acquire the local color. Since the publication of "Frances Ro," one of the six best-selling books of the season, she has written a short story, "The Romance of Life," brought out by the same firm, and is now in treaty for the dramatic rights of it. It has been her policy to have a number of publishers, that the failure of any one of them might not seriously affect her, for, as she quotes: "It is a bad plan to put all of one's eggs in the same basket."

She confines herself to her own line of work, and last winter declined an offer of \$500 from a New York paper to write "from a woman's standpoint" an account of a sensational trial then taking place in Washington. Miss Seawell does not know what led her to enter literature, being much of Fogarty's opinion that "reading and writing come by nature." Nor can she tell which of her books she considers the best, having like a fond and foolish mother, a soft place in her heart for each of the children of her brain.

Of the authors to whom she is indebted for inspiration, and who influenced her during the plastic period, she puts Thackeray first.

"Often," she says, "while writing a thing, it suddenly occurs to me that Thackeray would call that trash; throw it in the waste basket. But in the next moment comes the thought: Yes, but he would say, 'You can do better than that. Try again.'"

"A good way to get a strong infusion of a writer is to read him constantly for a month, and every year or so I read a half-dozen of Thackeray's books consecutively." "I think Maugham, too, who I hear is coming into fashion again—he never went out with me—affords excellent study for a writer. He has such a tremendous command of the English language, and his power of expression has been developed to such a high point that he cannot fail to be helpful to those seeking to acquire the art. Robert Louis Stevenson is another author's author, and while one cannot make one's self a great writer, one can by study and practice acquire a good clear literary style."

GILBERTA S. WHITTE.

(Continued on Seventh Page.)